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# The Reformation in Prophecy

by

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### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

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An Auto-Da-Fé Procession. Protestants march to the Stake.  
(The Little Book Becomes Bitter)

relics, masses and indulgences. Not only was this the situation spiritually, but those who dared to oppose were treated in the most cruel manner, e.g. The Waldensians and the Albigenses of France and Italy against whom the Papal armies advanced without mercy. At the siege of the city of Beziers, when protests were made that in slaying the inhabitants indiscriminately some Romanists would perish with the heretics, the Papal Legate commanded: "kill them all, God will know His own".

In addition the ruthless Inquisition was already commencing its long reign of terror. Man, women and children, rich and poor, high and low were arrested on the slightest suspicion of heresy, and tortured in the most cruel manner before being handed over to the secular authorities to be burnt at the stake at the so-called Auto da Fe, or Act of Faith.

Wycliffe's great work in the midst of superstition and persecution was to translate the Holy Scriptures into the English tongue, so that the people of these islands might read and in reading find Christ, the one Mediator and only way to salvation. So great was the hatred of Papal Rome for John Wycliffe that over forty years after his death they ordered his body to be dug up from the grave and burnt and his ashes to be thrown into the River Swift.

Nevertheless the work of Reformation had begun, the seeds of the Gospel had been sown, as Wycliffe's Lollards or Poor Preachers went around the land distributing hand written copies of Scripture. In spite of the fires of Romish torture which would claim the lives of valiant men like William Sawtyre and Sir John Oldcastle, the ground work had been laid for the events which were to shake these islands a century later. True to the word He had spoken to Hosea the prophet, God had gathered the outcasts of Israel, deported, dispersed and blind to their national identity, into these islands, and then even in the very midst of superstition and idolatry He had sent John Wycliffe the Morning Star of the Reformation after 'two prophetic days' had run their course.

Furthermore God had promised that during the 'third prophetic day' of Hosea's prophecy He would raise us up to live in His sight as a result of the great spiritual awakening which we call, the Reformation. Sure enough, our people having broken free of the chains of Rome, began from the days of Elizabeth I onwards to expand and spread abroad to become the greatest Christian Empire the world has ever seen. Wherever the British people, the nation of the Reformation and the Open Bible, established colonies, missionaries immediately followed bringing the Good News of Salvation to the heathen, and translating the Word of God into their languages. Truly we had been raised up to live in God's sight in the midst of the 'third prophetic day' and to fulfil our role as God's Witness Nation.

#### **THE LITTLE BOOK:**

The next prophecy we want to examine in relation to the Protestant Reformation is that of the 'Little Book':

"And I saw another angel come down from heaven clothed with a cloud; and a rainbow was about his head, and his face was as it were the sun and his feet as pillars of fire, and he had in his hand



a little book open; and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, and cried with a loud voice as when a lion roareth. — — — And the voice which I heard from heaven spake to me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. And I went unto the Angel, and said unto him, give me the little book. And he said unto me, take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was to my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it my belly was bitter. And he said unto me, thou must prophesy again before many peoples and nations and tongues and kings'. (Revelation Ch.10 v. 1-3 & 8-11).

In this prophecy concerning the Reformation there are a number of points we must consider. The first of these is the identity of the mighty angel who holds the 'little book' in his hand. Whilst it is true to say that the word 'angel' can be rendered 'messenger', surely much more is implied in the text under consideration. Some in the past have claimed that the angel represented Luther or one of the other great Reformers or Bible Translators, however, so tremendous was the task of Reformation, that only a divine being was capable of accomplishing it, even our Lord Jesus Christ, the 'messenger' of the new Covenant. The angel is described as being clothed with a cloud, a terminology never used to describe any created angel, but one which reminds us that our Lord is coming 'with clouds' to set up His Kingdom on earth (Rev. Ch.1 v.7) and that He is the one who makes 'the clouds His chariots', (Psalm 104 v.3). We also notice that the angel has a rainbow around his head reminding us that He is the one who has entered into Covenant relationship with Israel, the people of the Reformation. The angel is then described as having his face as the sun and his feet as pillars of fire. Once again these are the symbols of deity and speak to us of the faithfulness and invincibility of our dear Redeemer King.

Having looked at the angel we must now go on to examine the 'little book'. The fact that it is described as a 'little book OPEN' implies that there was a time when the book had been closed. Therefore the prophecy can only apply to one Book, the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, given under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit for the guidance and instruction of God's people, and closed to that same people during that period of history when Rome reigned supreme, and which has rightly earned the title the 'Dark Ages'. The apostasy of Christendom that followed on from the days of the Emperor Constantine was largely due to the fact that the Bible was a closed book. Translated from the original Hebrew and Greek into Latin by Jerome, it was of little value to the mass of the people, many of whom could not read and write, and those who could were fluent only in their own native tongue. Not content with this the Papacy saw fit to issue a number of formal decrees forbidding the Scriptures to the people. One such declaration was that of the Council of Toulouse in 1229 which stated:—

'We prohibit also the permitting of the laity to have the books of





**PAPAL PERSECUTION**  
"Kill them all — God will know His own".



Medal of Pope Paul II, struck 1469 on occasion of the Papal crusade against the Hussites in Bohemia. The inscription on the reverse is: *"The pious Shepherd wages way only against wild beasts"*.  
*Buonani, Numismata Pontificum,*



Struck by Pope Julius III, A.V. ("year of victory"), to commemorate the accession of Queen Mary of England.



Medal struck 1572 by Pope Gregory XIII to commemorate the Massacre of St. Bartholomew.

**MEDALS CELEBRATE PAPAL TRIUMPHS OVER THE WITNESSES**



the Old and New Testaments unless anyone should wish from a feeling of devotion to have a Psalter or breviary for Divine Service, or the hours of the blessed Mary. But we strictly forbid them to have the above mentioned books in the vulgar tongue'.

In spite of the Papacy various attempts were made to render portions of the Scriptures into English. As I pointed out in the booklet 'Holy Scripture – Wholly True', portions of the Word of God had been translated into the Anglo-Saxon tongue as early as the days of Alfred the Great. There was however no real attempt to give the people a complete Bible in their own language until the work of John Wycliffe some six hundred years later in 1382. In spite of the burning of Wycliffe's own mortal remains, not to mention his living followers and the copies of his English Bible by the Church of Rome, that translation remained in circulation until the outbreak of the Reformation when it was superseded by Tyndale's translation. In the face of fierce persecution Tyndale completed his work of translating and printing an English Bible, and soon copies of the priceless treasure were being smuggled into England hidden in bales of cloth. Once again the Roman Church reacted in typical vein, burning the Bibles and murdering the translator. However, Tyndale's dying prayer: 'Lord open the eyes of the King of England', was soon to be answered and by 1540, English Bibles were placed by Royal Decree in Parish Churches all across the land. What was true of Britain was true of the other Reformation lands of Northern Europe where due to the work of Luther, Zwingli and Calvin, the Scriptures of Truth were delivered into the hands of the people to read in their own tongue, and so the book was opened.

Two additional points in this prophecy remain to be commented upon. The newly opened Scriptures are described as being a 'little' book and I believe that this helps us to date the period of the prophecy. In the days of Wycliffe the English Bibles had still to be copied by hand and were large and bulky volumes. However, with the invention of the printing press, a new era dawned in which it was possible to produce much more quickly, much smaller and therefore easily concealed copies of the Scriptures. It was therefore impossible for this prophecy to come to pass before the late 15th Century, and this dating links it directly to the giving to the nation of an Open Bible at the time of the Reformation. Furthermore as a result of receiving and 'eating' the little book, the recipients experienced both a sweetness like honey and a bitterness. There is no doubt that as a result of having the Bible in their own tongue for the first time, multitudes came to the sweet experience of salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone. Sadly, a bitter price had to be paid for that salvation and spiritual liberation. Thousands were to seal their testimony with their blood, in the martyr fires and in the dungeons of Rome's hellish Inquisition. Imprisonment, cruel torture beyond description and ultimately death itself was the bitter price that our Reformation forefathers paid to hand down to us the 'Little Book Open'. How sad that in this age of ecumenism and modernism our clergy despise and ridicule the blessed Word of God, seeking to close the Bible once again, and to bring us via the World Council of Churches, once again under the yoke of Roman bondage.



### MEASURING THE TEMPLE:

"And there was given to me a reed like unto a rod, and the angel stood, saying Rise and measure the Temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the Temple leave out and measure it not, for it is given unto the Gentiles; and the Holy City shall they tread underfoot forty and two months". (Revelation Ch 11 v.1 and 2).

Immediately following the prophecy of the 'Little Book' we have a command being given to rise and measure the Temple of God, and there is a definite connection between these two great Reformation prophecies. The instrument of measurement is described as a 'rod like unto a reed', and the same word is used for 'reed' that is used to describe our Lord ruling 'with a rod of iron'. At first glance there may appear some contradiction between the thought of the rod being like unto iron and like unto a reed, but on closer examination we find that the word reed in both Hebrew and Greek has given us our English word 'Canon'. We often speak of the Canon of Holy Scripture to describe the sixty-six Canonical books of the Old and New Testaments. So we see that it was the Word of God, like iron in that it cannot be shaken, which was to be the rod with which the Reformers were to measure the Temple of God.

The temple referred to was not of course the old Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, for the word used here is NAOS which refers to a 'dwelling place' or 'inner sanctuary'. This word was consistently used throughout the New Testament to refer to the Church or Body of Christ, made up of individual believers who are living stones e.g.:

(a) "What agreement hath the Temple (NAOS) of God with idols – for ye are the Temple (NAOS) of the living God".

(2 Corinthians Ch.6 v.16)

(b) "In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple (NAOS) in the Lord".

(Ephesians Ch.2 v.21)

So we see that it was the Church of Christ and its altar or method of worship which the Reformers were called upon to measure by bringing them to the test of Holy Scripture. This was in fact a fulfilment of an Old Testament prophecy of Ezekiel:

"Show the House of Israel that they may be ashamed of their iniquities and let them measure the pattern".

(Ezekiel Ch. 43 v.10)

As the Reformers measured by the standard of the Word of God, the Church and its worship, they saw the need to cast out such abominable practices as the Mass, the Confessional, Prayers for the Dead, idols and images, worship of Mary and the Saints, from the Temple of God, and it is significant to note that such unscriptural errors were indeed banished from the National Church of England by the Second Prayer Book of Archbishop Cranmer in 1552, during the reign of Edward VI. In the years that followed the initial stages of the Reformation, there were others like the Puritans who were in their turn raised up by God to re-measure the Temple once again and seek to bring it even more closely into line with the measuring rod of the Word of God. Thus

## QUEEN MARY'S BLOODY BISHOPS.

Bishop Edmund Bonner, Roman Catholic Bishop of London during Queen Mary's reign, nicknamed "Bloody Bonner". He and Bishop Gardiner burnt 288 Martyrs during Mary's reign, and starved another 100 to death in prison. He burned thousands of Tyndale's Bibles at St. Paul's Cross. Elizabeth refused to allow Bonner to kiss her hand when she received the other Bishops in audience.



GARDINER



BONNER

Bonner condemned 120 to the stake himself, including Archbishop Cranmer, Saunders, Hooper, and Rowland Taylor. Refused Oath of Allegiance to Elizabeth. Died in Marshalsea Prison, September 5th, 1569. Bonner was of illegitimate birth. Buried in St. George's Churchyard, Southwark, at midnight, to avoid riots.

Bishop Stephen Gardiner, as R.C. Bishop of Winchester, replaced Archbishop Cranmer when Queen Mary ascended the Throne. He married Philip of Spain and Mary. Died November, 12th, 1556. Burnt Rogers, Bradford, Ferrar, Ridley, Latimer, and many others. Buried in Winchester Cathedral. Gardiner crowned Queen Mary.



Martyrs Burnt under Queen Mary.



Men who died for an open Bible, and laid the foundation of Britain and North America's Religious Liberty, Happiness and National Character.

Burning of Ridley and Latimer at Oxford, October, 1555, A.D.



# TWO IMMORTAL ENGLISH BISHOPS

"They then brought a lighted faggot, and laid it at Dr. Ridley's feet : upon which Latimer said, 'Ye of good comfort, Mr. Ridley, and play the man, we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out.'"

the work of cleansing the sanctuary and seeking to re-establish the Biblical pattern has continued until this very day as truth has been progressively revealed.

Now with regard to the command to 'leave out the Court of the Gentiles', I believe that this refers to the clear cut division of Christendom into two irreconcilable parts, Reformed and Roman. True to the command not to measure the Gentile Court, the Reformers did not attempt to reform or reconstitute Rome from within, but rather rejected the entire system as being Anti-Christ and made a complete and total separation from it. It is of great interest to note that this division saw the Reformation firmly established in Britain, Holland, northern Germany and Scandinavia where the descendants of the Lost Tribes of Israel dwelt, whilst the Reformed faith failed to make a lasting impact in such lands as Spain, Portugal and Italy, the nations of the Gentile Court, the territories of the old Roman Empire.

As to the treading down of the Holy City for '42 months', we know that this refers to the period when the Papacy would have unlimited power to persecute the people of God. If we take it that each of the 42 months contained 30 days, this gives us a period of 1260 days, and on the basis of Ezekiel Ch. 4 v.6 we can take each day to represent a year, prophetically. So the Papal Beast was to exercise this persecuting power and authority for 42 prophetic months of 1260 years. The following two time measures will illustrate the point.

#### TIME MEASURE I:

606 A.D. — Decree of the Emperor Phocas makes the Pope 'Universal Bishop'.

+

1260 (42 months)

1866 A.D. — Last two Protestants burned by Papal Decree at Barletta, Italy.

#### TIME MEASURE II:

610 A.D. — Death of Emperor Phocas

+

1260 A.D. (42 months)

1870 A.D. — The city of Rome captured and incorporated into the United Kingdom of Italy. The Pope loses his temporal powers and becomes the "Prisoner of the Vatican". The Decree of Papal Infallibility is issued.

#### THE TWO WITNESSES:

"And I will give power unto my two witnesses and they shall prophecy one thousand two hundred and three score days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophesy; and these have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all



plagues as often as they will. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and a half and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put into graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry and send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwell on the earth. And after three days and a half the spirit of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them".  
 (Revelation Ch.11 v.3-12)

The prophecy of the Two Witnesses immediately connects with the prophecy of the Measuring Rod, due to the time factor of 1260 days during which the Witnesses were to carry out their work. As we have already seen this period of 1260 days is the same period as 42 months and both refer to a time span of 1260 prophetic year-days, during which the Papal Antichrist would have the power to persecute and wear out the saints of God. Now let us identify who these Witnesses are, who operate during this period of history. The word 'witness' is used in the Old Testament to describe the nation Israel: "Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord that I am God". (Isaiah Ch. 43 v.12). The word is also used in the New Testament to describe the first Christians:— "Ye shall be witnesses to me". (Acts Ch. 1 v.8). The prophecy must therefore refer to the faithful Christians of Israelite descent gathered in these islands and scattered in various parts of North Western Europe in this New Covenant age, who had kept the truth of God alive by their witness and testimony during the dark night of Papal persecution and superstition. This remnant testimony, this witnessing 'new covenant' church are described as carrying out their work clothed in sackcloth, empowered by the Spirit of God. They had no easy task, standing for truth against error in the midst of the fiercest opposition, and only the power of the Holy Spirit, the same power promised by Jesus to His followers in Luke Ch. 24 v.49 could have sustained them in their struggle with the Papal Beast. However the Witnesses are described as being two in number, and are likened to two olive trees and two candlesticks. This symbolism takes us back to an Old Testament prophecy given in Zechariah Ch.4 v.2-14, where the prophet was given a vision of two olive trees on each side of a candlestick into which they channelled the oil for burning. John the Revelator tells us earlier in his Revelation vision that a candlestick represents a church. The two olive trees which supplied the oil and light of illumination to this witnessing remnant of Christian Israelites must surely refer to the Old and New Testaments for it was these same Scriptures of Truth which gave the Witnesses their spiritual knowledge and understanding and which upheld them even in the martyr fire.























## THE CONTINUING REVIVALS

"Then shall we know if we follow on to know the Lord. His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain together unto the earth"

Hosea Ch. 6 v.3)

This prophecy which follows on from that of the raising up of John Wycliffe during the "third day" tells us of the continued revivals that God has promised to send His national people Israel up to, and until, the return of the Lord Jesus.

Sure enough, from the time that Wycliffe opened up the Scriptures in their own tongue, the Lord God began to visit His people as rain upon parched ground. Over a century after Wycliffe, William Tyndale produced an even more accurate English translation of the Scriptures from the original Greek and Hebrew texts, whilst in 1611, there came into being our present King James Authorised Version, the work of some forty seven learned divines. Truly, Israel/Britain had become the people of the book. As that Bible was read by the Anglo-Saxon and kindred people, they began their exit out of the Dark Ages of counterfeit Papal religion and began to come into the blessings, both temporal and spiritual, promised by God through His prophets to Israel.

God now raised up to bless our land the Puritans and Covenanters of the 17th century. Then He sent us those great Revivalists John and Charles Wesley, George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards, whose preaching throughout the 18th Century turned Anglo-Saxon Israel back to God, whilst Papal Europe descended into all the horrors of the French Revolution. Throughout the 19th Century as Britain and the United States continued to expand into the "nation and company of nations", promised to the patriarchs, God continued to send great spiritual leaders like General Booth, Moody and Spurgeon. Then in this 20th Century as the return of the Lord drew nearer, God restored the sign/gift ministry to our people by raising up George and Stephen Jeffreys to go across the land proclaiming the Foursquare Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Saviour, Healer, Baptizer and Coming King.

We were now indeed a people blessed by the "former and latter rain", for no other race on the face of the earth could have produced such a list of godly men in both quantity and quality. No other race has enjoyed such a cycle of revival blessings, bringing to multiplied thousands the blessings of salvation and redemption promised long ago to our forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. If there was no other way to identify "lost" Israel in the world to-day we have but to look and see which nations accepted the blessings of the Reformation, threw off the yoke of Roman bondage and made the Bible their national guideline. The nations of Celto-Anglo-Saxondom are indeed the nations of the Reformation, the People of the Book, Israel – Redeemed, Regathered and Revived.

## CONCLUSION – THE COMING REFORMATION

"The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of a valley which was full of bones – and lo they were very dry – He said unto me

prophecy unto the bones and say, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord; Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones: Behold I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinew upon you, and I will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin and put breath in you and ye shall live and know that I am the Lord. So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone; And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. Then He said unto me: Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them and they lived and stood upon their feet, an exceeding great army. Then He said unto me, these bones are the whole House of Israel".

(Ezekiel Ch. 37 v.1-11)

Sad to relate, these same people of the Covenant are found to-day in exactly the state that Ezekiel the prophet was shown them, as a "valley full of dry bones". The enemy has sown tares amongst the wheat whilst we slept, and to-day we are seeing a veritable harvest of modernism, rationalism, ritualism, ecumenism and resurgent Romanism in the lands of Celto-Anglo-Saxondom which God has so richly blessed. The wonderful truths which began to be rediscovered at the Reformation are counted as of no importance to-day, the liberties and freedoms purchased with the blood of the martyrs are scorned and despised by the apostate clergy of our main denominations who almost stumble over each other in their unholy haste to return in submission to Popery. The result is that the great mass of our nation is spiritually dead (only 14% attend a Christian Church of any kind) and the cry of our people might well be, "our bones are dry and our hope is lost", BUT, God has promised in this wonderful prophecy to "breathe upon these slain", to send one more mighty outpouring of His Spirit, the former and latter rain together, the greatest Reformation and Revival since Pentecost, the result of which will be that our people in all their lands will once again "stand upon their feet a mighty army". In that day the true Gospel shall indeed be preached in power and demonstration, the idols and abominable things shall be totally removed from the midst of the "nation and company of nations", the false religious leaders shall be swept aside, and the hearts of our people shall be turned in repentance to a loving, heavenly Father.

It will come to pass that this race divinely chosen, will become a holy nation of priests and kings to rule the world for a thousand years and bless all individuals and peoples, just as God intended them to do under the headship of Christ the King. To those who answer the call NOW and make their calling and election sure by faith, repentance and obedience, and who devote their time and talents to proclaiming this Good News of the Kingdom, God has promised blessed positions of rulership and authority in the coming Millenium or Kingdom Age. There is so much to inspire us to stand firm for the Truth and to press on to victory over sin, disease and death toward the ultimate Reformation.